

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, is set forth below. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. When strikethrough cannot easily be perceived, or when five or fewer characters are deleted, [[double brackets]] are used to show the deletion. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following and ADD new claim 10.

1. (ORIGINAL) An exclusive access controlling apparatus for electronic information comprising:

version number holding means for holding a version number of electronic information;

electronic information name creating means for creating an electronic information name to be prepared by attaching the version number held in said version number holding means to an appellation unique to the electronic information;

electronic information name distributing means for distributing the electronic information name created by said electronic information name creating means, to users of the electronic information;

version number judging means for judging whether or not the version number included in the electronic information name coincides with the version number held in said version number holding means, when the electronic information to be specified by the electronic information name is subject to an access by each user of the electronic information;

access permitting means for permitting an access to the electronic information, when it is judged by said version number judging means that the two version numbers coincide with each other; and

version number updating means for updating the version number held in said version number holding means, when the contents of the electronic information have been updated.

2. (ORIGINAL) An exclusive access controlling apparatus for electronic information according to claim 1, further comprising;

reason analysis means for analyzing, based on the version number held in said version number holding means, a reason of a discrepancy between the both version numbers when they are judged to be discrepant from each other by said version number judging means.

3. (ORIGINAL) An exclusive access controlling apparatus for electronic information according to claim 1, further comprising;

electronic information name re-distributing means for re-distributing an electronic information name newly created by said electronic information name creating means to users of the electronic information, when the contents of the electronic information have been updated.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An exclusive access controlling apparatus for electronic information according to claim 2,

wherein said version number updating means sets ~~a~~the version number of electronic information at 0 (zero) when the exclusive access control of the electronic information is started, while increasing the version number of the electronic information by 1 (one) ~~during~~while the electronic information is being accessed, and increasing the version number of the electronic information by 2 (two) when the contents of the electronic information have been updated.

5. (ORIGINAL) An exclusive access controlling apparatus for electronic information according to claim 4,

wherein said reason analysis means judges that the electronic information is being locked, when the version number of the electronic information is an odd number, and judges that the access to the electronic information is targeted at the electronic information of the former version when the version number of the electronic information is an even number.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An exclusive access controlling apparatus for electronic information according to claim 2,

wherein said version number updating means sets a the version number of electronic information at 0 (zero) when the exclusive access control of the electronic information is started, while increasing the version number of the electronic information by 1 (one), ~~in advance of prior~~ to the creation of the electronic information name by said electronic information name creating means, and additionally increasing the version number of the electronic information by 1 (one) when the contents of the electronic information have been updated, ~~while.~~

7. (ORIGINAL) An exclusive access controlling apparatus for electronic information according to claim 6

wherein said reason analysis means judges that the access to the electronic information is targeted at the electronic information of the former version when the version number of the electronic information is an even number and judges that the electronic information is in an access inhibited state, when the version number of the electronic information is an odd number.

8. (ORIGINAL) An exclusive access controlling method for electronic information, comprising:

an electronic information name creating process for creating an electronic information name to be prepared by attaching a version number of electronic information held in a table to an appellation unique to the electronic information;

an electronic information name distributing process for distributing the electronic information name created by said electronic information name creating process, to users of the electronic information;

a version number judging process for judging whether or not the version number included in the electronic information name coincides with the version number held in said table, when the electronic information to be specified by the electronic information name is subject to an access by each user of the electronic information;

an access permitting process for permitting an access to the electronic information, when it is judged by said version number judging process that the two version numbers coincide with each other; and

a version number updating process for updating the version number held in said table, when the contents of the electronic information have been updated.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A recording medium recorded with an exclusive access controlling program for electronic information, ~~for realizing~~ for performing a process comprising:

an electronic information name creating function for creating an electronic information name to be prepared by attaching a version number of electronic information held in a table with an appellation unique to the electronic information;

an electronic information name distributing function for distributing the electronic information name created by said electronic information name creating function, to users of the electronic information;

a version number judging function for judging whether or not the version number included in the electronic information name coincides with the version number held in said table, when the electronic information to be specified by the electronic information name is subject to an access by each user of the electronic information;

an access permitting function for permitting an access to the electronic information, when it is judged by said version number judging function that the two version numbers coincide with each other; and

a version number updating function for updating the version number held in said table, when the contents of the electronic information have been updated.

10. (NEW) An exclusive access controlling method comprising:

creating an electronic information name;

attaching a version number to the electronic information name;

holding the electronic information name in a table;

distributing the electronic information name to users of the electronic information;

judging whether or not the version included in the electronic information name coincides with the version number held in the table when the electronic information is subject to an access by each user of the electronic information;

permitting access to the electronic information when it is judged that the two version numbers coincide; and

updating the version number held in the table, when the contents of the electronic information have been updated.